

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently amended) A method of providing percutaneous access, said method comprising:

inserting a guidewire into or through the renal collection system,
percutaneously inserting an elongate tubular structure having a first, smaller cross-sectional profile over the guidewire and into the renal collection system;

expanding said elongate tubular structure from said first, smaller cross-sectional profile to a second, greater cross-sectional profile;

inflating a balloon to expand said elongate tubular structure from said first, smaller cross-sectional profile to said second, greater cross-sectional profile; and

releasing the elongate tubular structure from a constraining tubular jacket, wherein releasing the elongate tubular structure from the constraining tubular jacket comprises tearing said tubular jacket along a perforation.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 26, 25, wherein the inflating a balloon step is accomplished using a balloon catheter positioned within the tubular body.

28. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 26, 25, wherein the inflating a balloon step comprises radially expanding said balloon.

29. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 26, 25, further comprising the step of removing the balloon from the tubular structure following the expanding steps.

30.-46. (Canceled)

47. (Currently amended) A method of providing percutaneous access, said method comprising:

inserting a guidewire into or through the renal collection system,
percutaneously inserting an elongate tubular structure having a first, smaller cross-sectional profile over the guidewire and into the renal collection system, the tubular structure having a beveled distal tip;

expanding said elongate tubular structure from said first, smaller cross-sectional profile to a second, greater cross-sectional profile;

inflating a balloon to expand said elongate tubular structure from said first, smaller cross-sectional profile to said second, greater cross-sectional profile; and

releasing the elongate tubular structure from a constraint, wherein releasing the elongate tubular structure from a constraint comprises tearing said constraint along a perforation.

48. (Canceled)

49. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 48 47, wherein the inflating a balloon step is accomplished using a balloon catheter positioned within the tubular body.

50. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 48 47, wherein the inflating a balloon step comprises radially expanding said balloon.

51. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 48 47, further comprising the step of removing the balloon from the tubular structure following the expanding steps.

52.-59. (Canceled)

60. (Currently amended) A method of providing percutaneous access, said method comprising:

inserting a guidewire into or through the renal collection system,

percutaneously inserting an elongate tubular structure having a first, smaller cross-sectional profile over the guidewire and into the renal collection system;

expanding said elongate tubular structure from said first, smaller cross-sectional profile to a second, greater cross-sectional profile;

inflating a balloon to expand said elongate tubular structure from said first, smaller cross-sectional profile to said second, greater cross-sectional profile; and

releasing the elongate tubular structure from a constraining tubular jacket, wherein releasing the elongate tubular structure from the tubular jacket comprises tearing said tubular jacket along a score line.

61. (Canceled)

62. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 61 60, wherein the inflating a balloon step is accomplished using a balloon catheter positioned within the tubular body.

63. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 61 60, wherein the inflating a balloon step comprises radially expanding said balloon.

64. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~64~~ 60, further comprising the step of removing the balloon from the tubular structure following the expanding steps.

65.-71. (Canceled)

72. (Currently amended) A method of providing percutaneous access, said method comprising:

inserting a guidewire into or through the renal collection system,

percutaneously inserting an elongate tubular structure having a first, smaller cross-sectional profile over the guidewire and into the renal collection system, the tubular structure having a beveled distal tip;

expanding said elongate tubular structure from said first, smaller cross-sectional profile to a second, greater cross-sectional profile;

inflating a balloon to expand said elongate tubular structure from said first, smaller cross-sectional profile to said second, greater cross-sectional profile; and

releasing the elongate tubular structure from a constraint, wherein releasing the elongate tubular structure from the constraint comprises tearing said constraint along a score line.

73. (Canceled)

74. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~73~~ 72, wherein the inflating a balloon step is accomplished using a balloon catheter positioned within the tubular body.

75. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~73~~ 72, wherein the inflating a balloon step comprises radially expanding said balloon.

76. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~73~~ 72, further comprising the step of removing the balloon from the tubular structure following the expanding steps.

77.-82. (Canceled)